

**SYMBOLISM IN RON HOWARD'S
ANGELS AND DEMONS MOVIE (2009):
A SEMIOTIC APPROACH**



ARTICLE PUBLICATION

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Bachelor Degree in English Department**

by

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2012

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Abstract

The major problem of the study is how symbolism is reflected in Angels and Demons movie by Ron Howard. The objective of this study is to analyze the movie based on its structural elements and analyze the movie based on the semiotic approach. In Analyzing Angels and demons movie, the writer uses qualitative method and semiotic approach. The data source consists of primary data and secondary data sources. Primary data source is the Angels and demons movie directed by Ron Howard released in 2009. While secondary data source are other materials taken from books, journals and internet related to study. Both data collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The study comes to the following conclusion. Firstly, based on the structural analysis, it is evident that in this movie, the director is saying that "angels and demons are symbols of good and evil behavior of individuals in the society". Secondly, based on the semiotic analysis, it is apparent that in this movie, the director wants to make the audience realize that the war of good against evil is an everlasting war that everybody should fight in all ages.

Key words : Symbol, Symbolism, Semiotic

Introduction

Angels and Demons movie was released on 15 May 2009. The director of the movie is Ron Howard. The producer is Brian Grazer and John Calley. This movie was adapted from *Angels and Demons* novel by Dan Brown. The type of this movie is drama with duration 146 minutes. The cost production of this movie is \$133 M. Filming of *Angels and Demons* took place in Rome, Italy, and the Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, California. Composer Hans Zimmer and screenwriter Akiva Goldsman also return.

Angels and Demons movie tells about Pope and illuminati. It started from death of the Pope is unnatural. Then the church will hold a conclave of cardinal (preferiti) will lock themselves inside the Sistine Chapel to hold an "Onclava" papal election meeting. The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) that makes antimatter and then it lost. Robert Langdon, Dr. Vittoria Vetra and Vatican police work together to find the four cardinals who was kidnapped and also to find antimatter. The first victim found Cardinal Ebner die in the underground room which means the show "earth", in Chigi Chapel, Santa Maria Delpopolo church. The second victim found in the middle of the field Lamassa Cardinal St. Peter off by punching holes in his lungs, which shows the "air". The third victim found cardinal of the church of Santa Maria Della Vittoria with the state fire that shows "fire". The fourth victim found in the Pizza Novona at fountain and still life. Because the fourth victim still life, they get clue where antimatter place that antimatter was in the Castle Sant' Angelo. When they found antimatter the battery only lasted 5 minutes then Padre try to bring it by helicopter and blow it up in the air, the Vatican was finally rescued. When Robert Langdon and Dr. Vittoria Vetra see the tape side of Padre Television footage, they found the main perpetrators of this incident by making up stories about the Illuminati. Eventually, he committed suicide by burning himself. Pope's election has been a success-elect is the Father of Italian Cardinal Elbert.

From the synopsis above and understanding *Angels and Demons* movie, the writer was interested in analyzing this movie because the symbol. The major character can solving problems with the reading of the sign especially the symbol that is so impressive by the main character from the beginning of writing Ambigram until the actual unfolding of all mysteries. Here shows all the sign have meaning and significance with all of mystery can be solved by good and neat. Because the symbol part of sign and sign part semiotic which Morris defines that semiotics is the science of sign (Chandler, 2002:7) and According to Saussure (Chandler, 2002: 36) there

three elements of sign: symbol, icon and index. The writer uses symbolism in semiotic prospective as an appropriate theory to analyze in this research.

Research Method

Type of the Study is qualitative research. The object of the study is symbolism in Ron Howard's *Angels and Demons* Movie. Type of data in this research is picture, the text that shows the way to solve the problem. Types of data sources in this research are categorized into primary data source is the *Angles and Demons* movie itself and secondary data source all report that writer finds from the library or virtual source that will support the primary data. Technique of the data collection; firstly, observation is used to make the analysis by watching the film repeatedly to get the understanding about this film. Secondly, Literary research is watching the film repeatedly and understanding about this film, finding out the important data and identifying the relevant elements, talking notes, arranging data into several parts based on its classification, developing data to get the last result. Technique of the data analysis; selecting the data that show to solving the problem in the movie, analyzing the data on symbolism, and describing the meaning of the symbolism above.

Main Finding and Discussion

1. Angel

Angel is a variety of religions which are regarded as spiritual beings.

a. Denotative

The signifier is the word angel and the signified is a variety of religions which are regarded as spiritual beings. They are often depicted as messengers of God. The denotative meaning is a variety of religions that are regarded as spiritual beings. They are also often depicted as messengers of God.

b. Connotative

The denotative meaning as the new signifier is a variety of religions are regarded as spiritual beings. They are often depicted as messengers of God and the signified angel is all of the goodness relationship in the world. The connotative meaning is angel is all of the goodness relationship in the world. Angel is symbol of goodness.

c. Mythic

Angel is a variety of religions which are regarded as spiritual beings. They are often depicted as messengers of God and reflected all of the goodness relationship in the world.

2. Demon

Demon is described as something or spirit that is not human and malevolent.

a. Denotative

The signifier is the word Demon and the signifier is described as something or spirit that is not human and malevolent. The denotative meaning is variety of something or spirit that is not human and malevolent. Demon represents spirit who has malevolent character.

b. Connotative

The denotative meaning as the new signifier is demon is variety of something or spirit that is not human and malevolent and the signified demon is all of the evilness relationship in the world. The connotative meaning is Demon is all of the evilness relationship in the world. Demon is symbol of evilness

c. Mythic

Demon is described as something or spirit that is not human and malevolent and reflected all of the evilness relationship in the world.

3. Antimatter

Antimatter is are the liquid on the airtight nano-composite cylinder canister.

a. Denotative

The signifier is the name antimatter and the signified are the liquid on the airtight nano-composite cylinder canister which ends of the canister has gold electromagnet and in under electromagnet has place to save the battery and lamp to determine the strength of the battery. The denotative meaning is the liquid on the airtight nano-composite cylinder canister which ends of the canister has gold electromagnet and in under electromagnet has place to save the battery and lamp to determine the strength of the battery.

b. Connotative

The denotative meaning as the new signifier is the liquid on the airtight nano-composite cylinder canister which ends of the canister has gold electromagnet and in under electromagnet has place to save the battery and lamp to determine the strength of the battery. The signified is antimatter is the extremely combustible substance. The substance will explode when the battery is empty. The explosion is equivalent to a 5 kiloton bomb. The connotative meaning is antimatter is the extremely combustible substance. The substance will explode when the battery going dead.

c. Mythic

The liquid on the airtight nano-composite cylinder canister which ends of the canister has gold electromagnet and in under electromagnet has place to save the battery and lamp to determine the strength of the battery. The substance will explode when the battery is empty. The explosion is equivalent to a 5 kiloton bomb.

4. Illuminati

Illuminati is the name of organization in Rome.

a. Denotative

The signifier is the name illuminati. The signified is Illuminati which is the name of organization in Rome. The denotative meaning is Illuminati which is the name of organization in Rome.

b. Connotative

The denotative as new signifier is Illuminati that is the name of organization in Rome. The signified is that the Illuminati is a secret organization consist of physicists, mathematicians, astronomers. The connotative meaning is the secret organization consists of physicists, mathematicians, astronomers.

c. Mythic

Illuminati is the name of organization in Rome and the secret organization consist of physicists, mathematicians, astronomers. The Illuminati is not become violent until the 17th century. Because they concerned with the churches in accurate teaching and dedicated to scientific truth. The Vatican does not like this and hunt them down and kill them which make them become a secret organization.

5. Ambigram

Ambigram is an image and also a word at once which can be written forwardly and backwardly.

a. Denotative

The signifier is the name ambigram and the signified is ambigram which is an image and also a word at once which can be written forwardly and backwardly. The denotative meaning is ambigram which is an image and also a word at once which can be written forwardly and backwardly. It has five parts, the first word is "Illuminati", the second word is "earth", the third word is "air", and the fourth word is "air" and the last word "water".

b. Connotative

The denotative meaning as the new signifier is Ambigram is an image and also a word at once which can be written forwardly and backwardly. It has five parts the first word is “Illuminati”, the second word is “earth”, the third word is “air”, the fourth word is “air” and the last word “water”. The signified is Ambigram is one of the other character from Illuminati, the first four are the fundamental elements of science; “earth”, “air”, “fire” and “water”. The last Ambigram is the name from their self “Illuminati”. The connotative meaning is Ambigram is one of the other character from Illuminati, the first four are the fundamental elements of science; “earth”, “air”, “fire” and “water”. The last Ambigram is the name from their self “Illuminati”.

c. Mythic

Ambigram is an image and also a word at once which can be written forwardly and backwardly and one of the other character from Illuminati, the first four are the fundamental elements of science; “earth”, “air”, “fire” and “water”. The last Ambigram is the name from their self “Illuminati”.

6. 503 Code Part

503 Code Part is the numeric consists of number parts.

a. Denotative

The signifier is the numeric 503. The signified is the numeric consists of number parts. The first is 5 “five”. The second is 0 “Zero”, and the third is 3 “tree”. It can be read as five hundred three. The denotative meaning is the numeric consists of number parts. The first is 5 “five”. The second is 0 “Zero”, and the third is 3 “tree”. It can be read as five hundred three.

b. Connotative

The denotative meaning as the new signifier is the numeric consist of number part the first is 5 “five”. The second is 0 “Zero”, and the third is 3 “tree”. We can read five hundred three. The signified is the code path used by Illuminati to show the sign of the interesting sign in the end and it is rarely found at Illuminati books. The connotative meaning is the code path used illuminati to show the sign of the interesting sign in the end and it is rarely found at Illuminati books. The meaning of code path 3 is Roma numerals DIII in the Galileo’s third text is Diagrama. And 5 is the segno (sign) hidden on page number five. While the first book is Dialogo and the second book is Discorso.

c. Mythic

The numeric consists of number parts. The first is 5 “five”. The second is 0 “Zero”, and the third is 3 “tree”. It can be read as five hundred three. The code path used by Illuminati to show the sign of the interesting sign in the end and it is rarely found at Illuminati books.

7. Water Mark

Water Mark is clause, image or pattern in paper that appears as various shades.

a. Denotative

The signifier is name watermark. The signified is clause, image or pattern in paper that appears as various shades when viewed by reflected light caused thickness variations in the paper. It looks translucent color. The denotative meaning is clause, image or pattern in paper that appears as various shades when viewed by reflected light caused thickness variations in the paper. It looks translucent color.

b. Connotative

The denotative meaning as the new signifier is clause and image or pattern in paper that appears as various shades when viewed by reflected light caused thickness variations in the paper. It looks translucent color. The signified is the sign to show the different page which on this page used illuminati to take place the clue. The connotative meaning is the sign to show the different page which on this page used illuminati to take place the clue. Watermark made illuminati at page number five in Diagrama on the Galileo's books

c. Mythic

Image or pattern in paper that appears as various shades when viewed by reflected light caused thickness variations in the paper. It looks translucent color end the sign to show the different page which on this page used illuminati to take place the clue. Watermark made illuminati at page number five in Diagrama on the Galileo's books. It shows the clue become church illumination on the margin at the book.

8. Pyramid

Pyramid is a high tower that has four sides as square and a point at the top.

a. Denotative

The signifier is the name Pyramid. The signified is a high tower that has four sides as square and a point at the top. The denotative meaning is a high tower that has four sides as square and a point at the top.

b. Connotative

The denotative meaning as a new signifier is high tower that has four sides as square and a point at the top. The signified is that the pyramid is one of the other symbols from illuminate adapted from Egyptian. The connotative

meaning is that the pyramid is one of the other symbols from illuminate adapted from Egyptian.

c. Mythic

A high tower that has four sides as square and a point at the top and one of the other symbols from illuminate adapted from Egyptian

9. Pentagram

Pentagram is the bas-relief, the image of the star has an eye in the middle, has four sides as the top, and in the line on the pentagram has the word.

a. Denotative

The signifier is the name pentagram. The signified is the bas-relief, the image of the star has an eye in the middle, has four sides as the top, and in the line on the pentagram has the word. The denotative meaning is the bas - relief, the image of the star has an eyes in the middle, has four side as the top, and in the line on the pentagram has the word.

b. Connotative

The denotative meaning as the new signifier is the bas- relief, the image of the star has an eyes in the middle, has four side as the top, and An in the line on the pentagram has the word. The signified is marker guide a passage way that leads to Vatican. The connotative meaning is marker guide a passage way that leads to Vatican, the bas-relief on the flour on the Castel San't Angelo.

c. Mythic

The bas- relief, the image of the star has an eye in the middle, has four sides as the top, and in the line on the pentagram has the word and marker guide a passage way that leads to Vatican.

Conclusion

The study comes to the following conclusion. Firstly, based on the structural analysis, it is evident that in this movie, the director is arranging “angels and demons are symbols of good and evil behavior of individuals in the society”. In order to elaborate the concepts, the director adopts Dan Brown’s novel to be presented in film. The director relies upon Dan Brown in portraying the characters, together with the other structural elements of the novel. He said his bight to present the story, so that the audience could group the massage.

Secondly, based on the semiotic analysis, it is apparent that in this movie, the director want to make the audient realize that the war of good against evil is an everlasting war that everybody should fight in all ages. The movie illustrates that it is something hand to distinguish evil from good.

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